

## LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM VISION

As we embrace and develop our new Curriculum at St. Robert's school we acknowledge that the Welsh government includes outdoor learning as a key feature of effective and learner-centred pedagogy. With the implementation of structured and successful learning outside the classroom opportunities at St. Robert's, we provide our pupils with the potential for:

- high levels of well-being, confidence and engagement;
- social, emotional, spiritual and physical development;
- authentic opportunities for learners to develop and consolidate cross-curricular skills;
- development of imagination, creativity and curiosity;
- empathy for the environment, showing an awareness of their potential impact on the living world; and ability to assess and experience risk, helping to develop resilience and confidence.

## WHAT DOES LEARNING OUTSIDE LOOK LIKE AT ST. ROBERT'S

At St. Robert's Primary School, we strive to ensure that learning outside the classroom is embedded throughout our curriculum. We ensure that the structured outdoor activities provide a depth and relevance that is difficult to achieve indoors. We are extremely lucky with our school grounds and outdoor learning classroom.

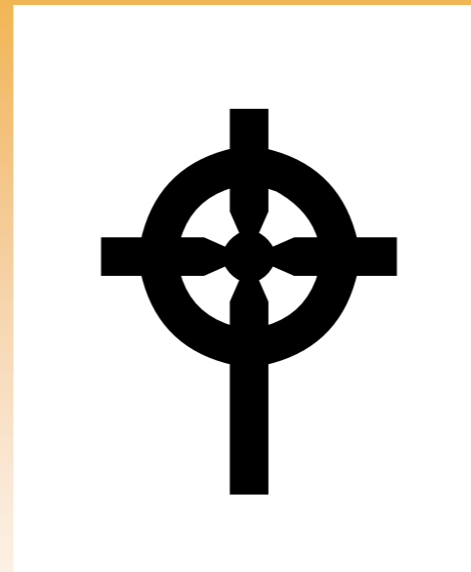
Through our whole school approach to learning outside the classroom, we aim to improve pupils' health and wellbeing which in turn will have a positive impact on our pupils' attainment. This is supported by our whole school vision to improving pupils' social and emotional skills and their physical health through our school ethos and environment. These are achieved through a structured pathway with increasing the regularity and quality of learning outside the classroom. We aim to provide well-structured, motivating, relevant and accessible progressions using our outdoor environment, school 'super grounds' and local area to enhance teaching and learning and help make it more memorable.

As a minimum, it is expected that pupils will complete one activity a week in our school's outdoor learning environment. Progressive units of work will be planned for and delivered, with pupils undertaking a range of activities within a particular area of learning to ensure skills are reinforced and built upon over a period of time.

In addition to this, pupils will take part in visits off site and these are carefully interwoven and mapped out with clear links made to class topics. This can be seen in our school's enrichment activities mapping document.



# St. Robert's Catholic



## Primary

### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



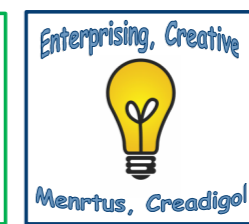
### OUTDOOR LEARNING LEADS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs S. Taylor

### RESOURCES

Our outdoor learning scheme of work provide units which are structured in to progressive sessions linking to all AoLEs. The basis of the units of work have been supported by the use of 'The National Curriculum Outdoors' series of books for each of the appropriate age groups and the resources from the 'Outdoor Learning Made Easy' website.

The use of the knowledge and expertise from the 'Learning Outside the Classroom' and 'Learning through Landscapes' websites have been valuable tools when developing learning outside the classroom at St. Robert's.



## THE 4 PURPOSES

Through Learning Outside the Classroom opportunities, we are able to develop the 4 Purposes in a meaningful way:

- **Ambitious and Capable Learners** - Learning outside the classroom provides pupils with opportunities to build the skills to connect and apply knowledge in different contexts. Teaching of AoLE specific skills when learning outside the classroom allows links to be made to real-world contexts that engage pupils and helps them to connect it with other parts of their lives and enable them to explain concepts and their learning in real-world terms. These types of activities help children to contextualise their learning, creating ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- **Ethically, Informed Citizens** - This purpose focuses on the importance of creating well-rounded, thoughtful members of society. With providing our pupils the opportunities for learning outside the classroom we are allowing them a connection to the natural world, in which they will learn how to protect it and develop their own reasons to why they want to protect it. Additionally, with good behaviour management, learning outside the classroom is an inclusive way to learn, which may help pupils understand the benefits of a diverse society. By taking the learning outdoors, we can begin to create ethical, informed citizens of the world who respect others and the planet they live on.
- **Healthy, Confident Individuals** - This purpose emphasises the importance of health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally. Carefully considered opportunities and structured sessions of learning outside the classroom means that every pupil gets some physical activity. Furthermore, there is a wealth of evidence to demonstrate how time outdoors improves mental health. By allowing pupils with plentiful time outdoors we give them as many opportunities to bolster their physical and mental health as possible. In turn, this will help learners grow into healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.
- **Enterprising, Creative Contributors** - This purpose highlights the value of creative problem solving. Taking risk is an important part of every child's development, and the link between creativity and risk is well documented. Learning outside the classroom learners many opportunities to take measured risks. Through overcoming the challenges of taking risks, pupils build confidence and resilience.

Whilst also allowing pupils the opportunity to prove to themselves that they can do it and they will be OK — even if they fail. This will help our pupils develop the skills they need for a fulfilling adult life, and shape them into enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.

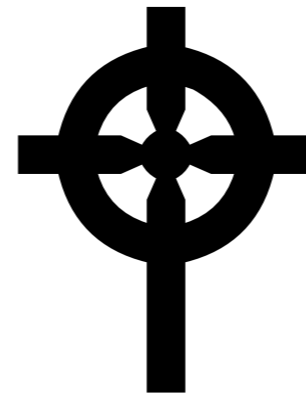
# Learning Outside the Classroom

## St. Robert's Catholic



### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM WITHIN A FAITH SCHOOL

As a faith school, there are many opportunities we use to support learning outside the classroom to complement and enhance our teaching of RE and to develop the spirituality of our pupils. Mainly through the opportunities for outdoor worship; rosary, Crowning of the May Queen, class and whole school gweddiwn, use of our school grounds for awe and wonder of our world and visits to our parish Church.



## Primary



### CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

Our outdoor learning scheme and enrichment activities mapping ensures that all learning opportunities outside of the classroom have a clear link to an AoLE or cross-cutting theme. They clearly highlight appropriate links to AoLE subject specific skills and knowledge.

Over the course of the year, pupils will be provided with opportunities to undertake learning outside the classroom linked to a range of AoLEs. All units of work offer opportunities for increased physical activity and opportunities to apply LNF & DCF objectives.

Additionally, activities within the units of work encourage effective social interaction and independent, creative and critical thinking that provide opportunities to cover key health and well-being objectives.

It is increasingly recognised that creative and challenging outdoor learning activities develop personal, social and thinking skills, communication, problem-solving and teamwork, breadth of understanding and an introduction to the essential knowledge that children need to develop into confident and responsible citizens who value and appreciate the natural environment around them. Research shows us that linking learning with physical and emotional responses can help to make it more memorable.

There is great research with a long history of children learning through purposeful activities with the environment outside the classroom, which in turn allows for hands on-experiential learning in natural environments contributing to other key learning factors, such as, promoting improved creativity, engagement and understanding. The value of outdoor learning on children's health and well-being, as well as in stimulating their natural curiosity about the world, has been recognised by researchers and policymakers here and abroad.

All areas of learning can be enhanced by the effective use of the outdoors. All ages and abilities will access and benefit from using the outdoors as a regular part of their learning. Teaching curriculum subjects outdoors not only offers children a range of different ways of learning but also enables them to experience success in different contexts, offering the opportunity to raise confidence and aspirations of all pupils.

By enabling our children to engage with different learning contexts and methods, teaching outdoors can bring improvement in attainment and other key desirable outcomes, including our 4 purposes; Ambitious, Capable Learners, Enterprising, Creative Contributors, Ethical, Informed Citizens and Healthy, Confident Individuals.

### CYNEFIN

Where appropriate teachers make links to work of welsh contexts and the opportunities to develop children's understanding and sense of place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar. Some examples of this when learning outside the classroom, include; visits and walks to our local village and speaking with local business with pupils, visits to our local art society gallery, visits to 'Cenin' green power linking to topic work, use of our immediate local area to teach pupils about keeping safe by and on the roads through our kerbcraft and cycling proficiency programmes.



### LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM - TRIPS, VISITS ENRICHMENT, CLUBS

Pupils experience a wide range of opportunities that support Learning outside the classroom. Some of these include; school trips and visits that compliment topic learning, Y2 undertake Kerbcraft about how to be a safe pedestrian, Y6 cycling proficiency, Y6 annual residential visit to Llangrannog.

In the summer term pupils have opportunity to be part of our outdoor learning club.

